AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A positioning apparatus comprising:

a base ~~stage~~;

guide elements provided on ~~both~~ non-adjacent ends of the base ~~stage~~; a slider which is guided by the guide elements; and

a drive element ~~elements which are~~ provided at one of the non-adjacent ~~both~~ ends of the base ~~stage and move the stage~~ , wherein the drive element moves the slider along the guide elements, and

wherein due to the configuration of the guide elements, a stiffness of the slider, in a yawing direction of the slider ~~stage~~, in an ~~of the guide elements provided in the~~ area where the drive element is ~~elements are~~ provided is made higher than that ~~of the guide elements provided~~ in an area opposite the area where the drive element is provided.

2. (Currently Amended) The positioning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~further comprising~~:

there are two guide elements provided on the base in the area ~~a guide element additionally provided in the area of the stage~~ where the drive element is provided.

3. (Currently Amended) The positioning apparatus according to claim 2, wherein ~~further comprising~~:

~~a plurality of~~ the guide elements provided in the area of the base ~~stage~~ where the drive element is provided are arranged substantially symmetrically with respect to the drive element ~~elements and mutually proximate to each other~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The positioning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the drive element is ~~elements are~~ formed ~~from~~ as a ball screw, and

the guide elements are formed ~~from a~~ as linear guides ~~guide~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The positioning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the slider ~~stage~~ has an opening section.

6. (Original) An X-Y stage comprising:
the positioning apparatus defined in claim 1.

7. (New) The X-Y stage according to claim 6, further comprising second guide elements provided on second non-adjacent ends of the base on which there are not provided said guide elements; a second slider which is guided by the second guide elements; and a second drive element provided at one of the second non-adjacent ends of the base and which moves the second slider along the second guide elements,

wherein, due to the configuration of the second guide elements, a stiffness of the second slider, in a yawing direction of the second slider, in an area where the second drive element is provided is made higher than that of an area of the second slider opposite to where the second drive element is provided.

8. (New) The X-Y stage according to claim 7, wherein said second slider is arranged so as to move in a direction perpendicular to that in which said first slider is arranged to move.

9. (New) The positioning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the guide elements are disposed in parallel to the ends of the base on which they are provided.

10. (New) The positioning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the drive element is not provided at the other one of the non-adjacent ends of the base.

11. (New) The positioning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the drive element and the guide elements are parallel to one another.